

9-1-1954

Lewis and Clark Expedition

William J

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest>

Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

J. W. "Lewis and Clark Expedition." *The Palimpsest* 35 (1954), 368-389.
Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol35/iss9/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Lewis and Clark Expedition

Although 150 years have passed since Lewis and Clark began their heroic trek up the Missouri their exploit is still regarded as one of the most dramatic episodes in American history. It was the first governmental exploration of this region. Lewis and Clark were the first white men to cross the continent by this route. It was one of the longest land explorations, covering a distance almost equal to one-third the circumference of the globe. It touched what are now the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. It gave us our first accurate knowledge of the Northwest. It formed the basis of our claim to the Oregon country. It revealed Jefferson's vision of a great Republic. Finally, it affected to a considerable degree the development of the Northwest. Since the expedition passed along the western border of Iowa and camped on Iowa soil, citizens of the Hawkeye State are vitally interested in it.

Curiously enough, Thomas Jefferson had envisioned such an expedition long before the Louisiana Purchase. In 1783 he had suggested the idea to George Rogers Clark but nothing came of

it. Two years later, in 1785, while minister to France, Jefferson met John Ledyard, of Connecticut, a courageous explorer who had accompanied Captain Cook on his voyage to the Pacific. Ledyard readily agreed to cross Russia and Siberia and seek the headwaters of the Missouri from the West but the Empress of Russia disapproved and Ledyard was carried back a prisoner from Kamchatka to Poland and set free. Ledyard never recovered from the hardships of this journey and died in Egypt in 1788 while about to make an expedition to discover the headwaters of the Nile.

In 1792 Jefferson proposed to the American Philosophical Society that a competent person be engaged to ascend the Missouri, cross the Rockies, and descend by the nearest river to the Pacific. Andre Michaux, a French botanist and scientist, was appointed to perform this feat but got no further than Kentucky when he was recalled by the French government.

All during the negotiations for Louisiana Jefferson dreamed of his expedition across the continent to the Pacific. To command it he chose Meriwether Lewis, a choice history proved to be truly admirable. Lewis was born on the family farm near Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 18, 1774, and thus was a close neighbor of Thomas Jefferson. He received a private school education between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, during which period he seems to have excelled as a hunter

rather than as a scholar. He joined the Army of the United States during the Whiskey rebellion of 1794 and subsequently rose to the rank of captain in the First United States Infantry. He served with distinction under General Anthony Wayne in the latter's campaigns in the "Old Northwest," and was in command of the infantry which took over the Spanish posts in Mississippi. As a neighbor of Thomas Jefferson, young Lewis had won his friendship and when Jefferson became president in 1801, he appointed Lewis as his private secretary. Jefferson wrote of Lewis that he had no hesitation in confiding the expedition to him, adding this description:

Of courage undaunted; possessing a firmness and perseverance of purpose which nothing but impossibilities could divert from its direction; careful as a father of those committed to his charge, yet steady in the maintenance of order and discipline; intimate with the Indian character, customs, and principles; habituated to the hunting life; guarded, by exact observation of the vegetables and animals of his own country, against losing time in the description of objects already possessed; honest, disinterested, liberal, of sound understanding, and a fidelity to truth so scrupulous that whatever he should report would be as certain as if seen by ourselves, — with all these qualifications, as if selected and implanted by nature in one body for this express purpose, I could have no hesitation in confiding the enterprise to him.

Captain William Clark, a brother of George Rogers Clark, was selected by Lewis as second in

command and joyfully accepted the offer. Born in Virginia, in 1770, Clark was a boyhood friend of Lewis but had moved to near Louisville, Kentucky, in 1784. His family became one of the prominent families of that region. Clark entered the Army in 1789 and fought under Wayne in the Ohio campaigns. He served under Colonel John Hardin north of the Ohio and in 1791 was with General Charles Scott in the expedition against the Wabash Indians. From 1792 to 1796 he served with General Wayne again and later constructed a line of forts to guard the passage into the Indian territory. While on one of these campaigns, he is believed to have been associated with Meriwether Lewis. Small wonder that a friend of the family should write: "William is a youth of solid and promising parts, and as brave as Caesar." In 1796, at the ripe old age of 26, William Clark resigned his commission, leaving behind him a well-earned reputation for personal bravery and military skill. Joining his brother, George Rogers, in business, Clark was so occupied when Lewis invited him to join in the expedition Jefferson had ordered.

Jefferson sent the following rough draft of official instructions to Lewis:

The idea that you are going to explore the Missouri has been generally given out; it satisfies public curiosity and masks sufficiently the real destination. . . .

The object of our mission is to explore the Missouri

river and such principal streams of it, by communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river, may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across the continent, for the purpose of commerce. . . .

Your observations are to be taken with great pains and accuracy; to be entered distinctly and intelligently for others as well as yourself; to comprehend all the elements necessary, with the aid of the usual tables to fix the latitude and longitude of the places at which they are taken; and are to be rendered to the war office, for the purpose of having the calculation made concurrently by proper persons within the United States. Several copies of these as well as your other notes, should be made at leisure times, and put into the care of the most trustworthy of your attendants to guard, by multiplying them against the accidental loss to which they will be exposed. A further guard would be that one of these copies be on the cuticular membranes of the paper birch, as that is less likely to injury from damp than common paper. . . .

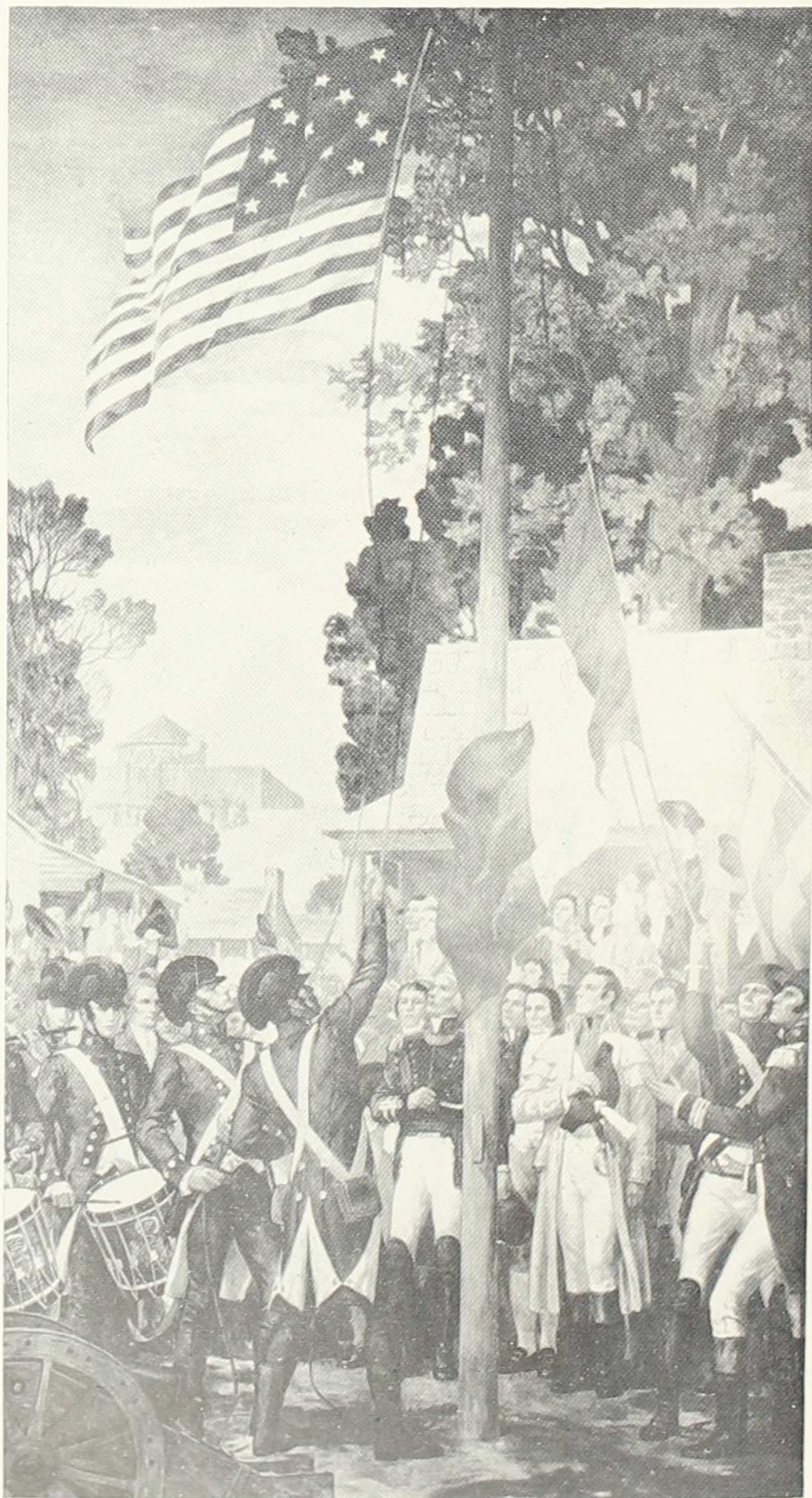
In all your intercourse with the natives, treat them in the most friendly and conciliatory manner which their own conduct will admit; allay all jealousies as to the object of your journey; satisfy them of its innocence. . . .

If a few of their influential chiefs within a practicable distance, wish to visit us, arrange such a visit with them, and furnish them with authority to call on our officers on their entering the United States to have them conveyed to this place at the public expense. If any of them should wish to have some of their young people brought up with us, and taught such arts as may be useful to them, we will receive, instruct them and take care of them. Such a mission, whether of influential chiefs or of young people, would give some security to your own party. . . .

It is impossible for us to foresee in what manner you



Courtesy New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
Painting of the Transfer of Lower Louisiana from France to the United States at
New Orleans on December 20, 1803.



Courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri

The Transfer of Upper Louisiana from France to the United States
at St. Louis on March 10, 1804.

will be received by those people, whether with hospitality or hostility, so it is impossible to prescribe the exact degree of perseverance with which you are to pursue your journey. We value too much the lives of citizens to offer them to probable destruction. . . .

On your arrival at the coast, endeavor to learn if there be any port within your reach frequented by the sea vessels of any nation and to send two of your trusty people back by sea, in such a way as shall appear practicable, with a copy of your notes; and should you be of the opinion that the return of your party by the way they went will be imminently dangerous, then ship the whole and return by sea, by the way either of Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope as you shall be able. . . .

Thomas Jefferson,

President of the United States of America.

Captain Lewis left Washington for Pittsburgh on July 5, 1803. There he built a boat and, after many delays, on August 31st started floating down the Ohio, recruiting 14 soldiers and 9 Kentuckians and picking up Captain Clark at Louisville. In December, the party reached St. Louis, still held by the Spanish authorities, who had not been officially informed of the purchase of the territory by the United States. Because of this technicality, the Spanish commandant refused to allow the Americans to proceed up the Missouri to the last settlement, and Lewis accordingly went into winter quarters at Camp Dubois (or Wood River) opposite the mouth of the Missouri River in Illinois. Here the volunteers were drilled and disciplined by Clark while Lewis spent much time

in St. Louis learning of the Upper Missouri from French fur-traders.

The personnel and equipment of the expedition consisted of Lewis and Clark and 43 men at the start. Lewis and Clark selected three of the soldiers — Charles Floyd, John Ordway, and Nathaniel Pryor — to be sergeants. On the eve of departure the men listed below having been balloted for, were placed in the following squads:

<i>1st Squad</i>	<i>2nd Squad</i>	<i>3rd Squad</i>
<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>
Nathaniel Pryor	Charles Floyd	John Ordway
<i>Privates</i>	<i>Privates</i>	<i>Privates</i>
George Gibson	Hugh McNeel	Wm. Bratten
Thos. P. Howard	Patrick Gass	John Colter
Geo. Shannon	Reubin Fields	Alex. Willard
John Shields	Joseph Fields	Wm. Warner
Jn. Collins	Jn. B. Thompson	Silas Goodrich
Jos. Whitehouse	Richard Winser	John Potts
Peter Wiser	Rich. Worthington	John Robertson
Hugh Hall	Robert Frasure	John Boleye

Besides these men there were several French boatmen and interpreters, some half-breeds, Clark's negro servant York, a veritable giant of a man, and a corporal and five men who were to accompany Lewis and Clark as far as the Mandan Indian village.

The equipment included three boats to carry the expedition — a large keelboat, 55 feet long, and a large and a small pirogue. The keelboat had a square sail and was equipped with twenty-two

oars. The pirogues were likewise equipped with oars, poles, ropes, and sails.

This expedition, with its tremendous consequences in the expansion of the territory of the United States, as well as its addition to the knowledge of the continent, cost the United States government a most insignificant sum — less than \$2,500, which was the appropriation made by Congress. It was based upon the following estimates submitted by Captain Lewis: \$217 for mathematical instruments, \$81 for arms and accouterments extraordinary, \$255 for camp equipment, \$55 for medicines, \$430 for means of transportation, \$696 for Indian presents, \$224 for provisions extraordinary, \$55 for materials and packs, \$300 for pay for hunters and interpreters, \$100 for silver coins for expenses from Nashville to the last Missouri settlement, leaving \$87 for contingencies. Since this was a military party the two commissioned officers and the enlisted men drew their regular compensation from the Army. Later, surviving members of the expedition were given grants of land. All in all, the expedition was destined to prove itself worth far more than it cost.

Finally, on May 14th, everything was ready and, although detained for hours by the farewells of neighboring inhabitants, they managed to hoist sail at four in the afternoon and "proceeded on under a gentle brease up the Missouri," making four miles before camping for the night. The ex-

pedition reached St. Charles on May 16th and remained there five days awaiting the arrival of Lewis and additional supplies from St. Louis.

Leaving St. Charles, with its 450 "pore, polite & Harmonious" Frenchmen, the three boats proceeded up the tortuous, tawny Missouri. Wild game was plentiful and the men who walked along the bank foraging were constantly bringing in a fresh supply of game. On June 6th they saw their first buffalo signs; on June 11th they killed their first bear. Meanwhile deer and fish added variety to what otherwise might have been a very tiresome diet. On July 4th they "ussered in the day by a discharge of one shot from our Bow piece" and they closed the day "by a Descharge from our bow piece" and "an axtra Gill of whiskey."

Both Lewis and Clark were wretched spellers and their journals accordingly contain a flavor that smacks somewhat of the colorful Connecticut Yankee — Peter Pond — who wrote his first descriptions of northeastern Iowa just thirty-one years before Lewis and Clark. Nevertheless, even though a number of colorful personalities had been describing the eastern border of Iowa for decades, the Lewis and Clark expedition probably brought more detailed and accurate information regarding the Missouri slope than had been compiled about the Mississippi border in the 130 years following the Joliet-Marquette expedition.

On July 18, 1804, the expedition reached the

southwest corner of present-day Iowa and began passing along the border of what is now Fremont County. Here is the entry for that day.

July 18th Wednesday 1804 —

a fair morning the river falling fast. Set out this morning at Sun rise under a Gentle Breeze from the S E. by S passing over the Prarie, at about 3 Miles we passed the head of the Island L. S. called by the French *Chauve* or *Bald pate* opposit the middle of (1) this Island the creek on the S. S. is nearest the river. In high water an Island is formed in the bend above the last (2). Measured the Current and found that in forty one Seconds it run 50 fathom but little timber is to be Seen except in the Low points on Islands & on creeks, the Groth of timber is generally Cotton Mulberry Elm Sycomore &c. &c. passed a Island on the 2^d point to the S. S. opposit the water (3) when high passes out in the Plain. oppsed this Island on the L. S. the hills jut to the river (4) this Hill has Sliped from the top which forms a Bluff above & 200 foot above the water, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in length & about 200 feet in Depth, has Sliped into the river, it is Composed of Sand Stone intermixed with an indiffer^t Iron ore near the bottom or next to the water is a Soft Slate Stone, Some pebble is also intirmixt. We passed a verry bad Sand bar and incamped on the L. S. at the lower point of the Oven Islands & opposit the Prarie, Call^d by the french *Four le tourtere* [*Baker's Oven*]. Saw a Dog nearly Starved on the bank, gave him som meet, he would not follow, our hunters killed 2 Deer to day.

From there on, day by day, the journal of the expedition continues with a minute description of what was seen. Broad and fertile fields and meadows, the soil "much Parched with frequent fires,"

were noted on July 20th. A "verry large yellow Wolf" is slain; so is a large water-snake that tries to feast on a deer the party had placed on the river bank awaiting supper. Tracks of bears are observed and frequent reference is made to dens of rattlesnakes. They found the "Musquitors so thick & troublesom that it was disagreeable and painfull to Continue a moment still." There were plenty of fish in the river with which to vary their diet of venison. On July 29th, Clark recorded:

we stoped to Dine under Some high Trees. . . . in a fiew minits Cought three verry large *Cat fish* one nearly white, those fish are in great plenty on the Sides of the river and verry fat, a quart of Oile Came out of the surpolous fat of one of those fish.

A tornado must have passed that way before the expedition arrived, for the journal records:

on the S. S. passed much falling timber apparently the ravages of a Dreddfull harican which had passed oblequely across the river from N. W. to S. E. about twelve months Since, many trees were broken off near the ground the trunks of which were sound and four feet in Diameter.

While passing by the western shore of Iowa, the party lived well. According to their journal of July 30th: "Cat fish is cought in any part of the river Turkeys Geese & a Beaver Killed & Cought every thing in prime order men in high Spirits. . . . Great no. of Musquitors this evening." Several men had very bad boils.

The original prairies must have been very beautiful, as witness this account on August 1st:

our Camp is above the high water level and rich covered with Grass from 5 to 8 feet high interspersed with copse of Hazel, Plumbs, Currents, (like those of the U. S.) Rasberries & Grapes of Diff^t Kinds. also producing a variety of Plants and flowers not common in the United States, two Kinds of honeysuckle . . . One Elk and three Deer Killed to day also two Beever Cought.

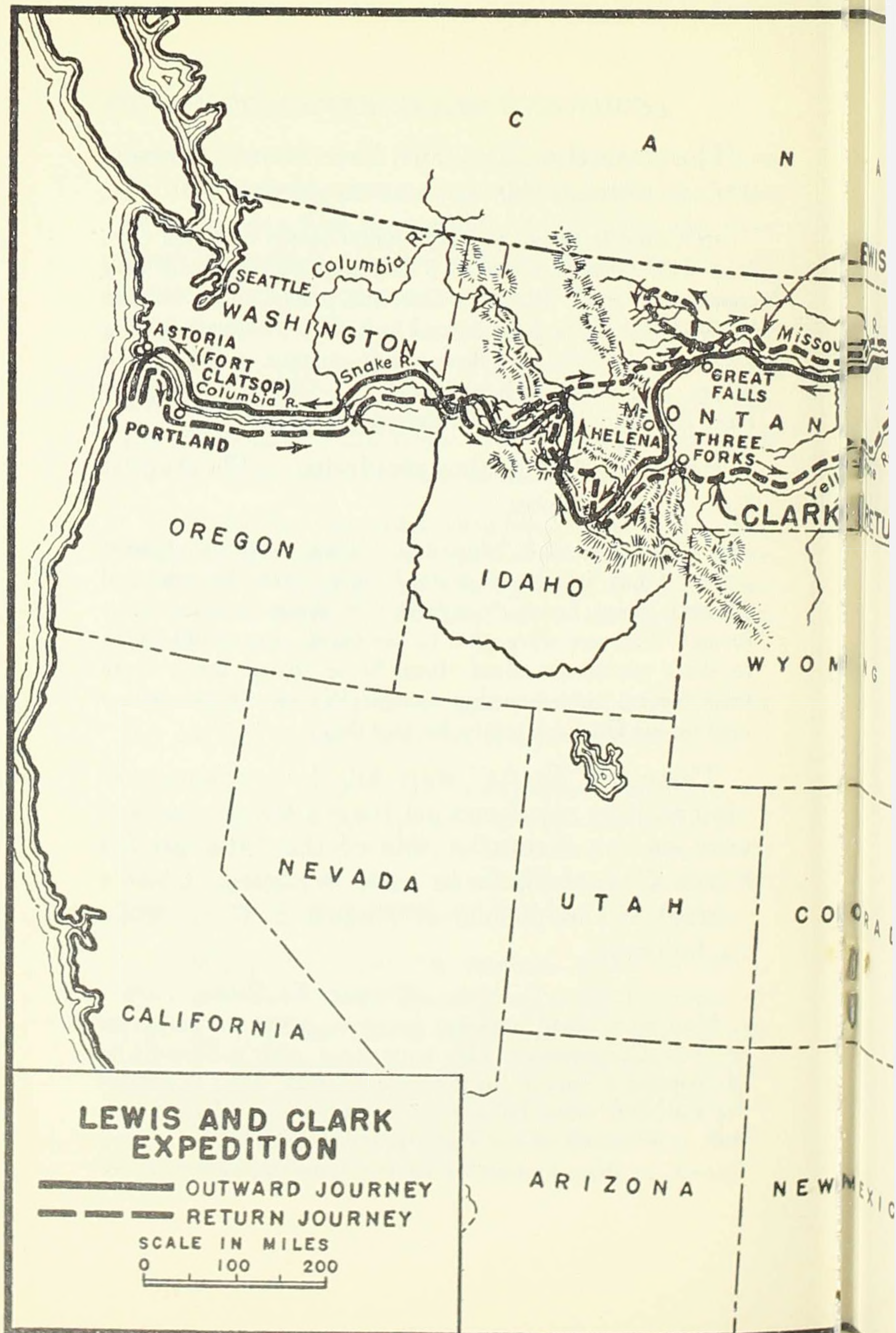
From time to time they met Indians. On August 2nd, Clark wrote:

a p^t of Otteau & Missourie Nation Came to Camp, among those Indians 6 were Chiefs, (not the principal Chiefs) Cap^t Lewis & myself met those Indians & informed them we were glad to see them, and would speak to them tomorrow, Sent them Some roasted meat, Pork flour & meal, in return they sent us Water *millions*. every man on his Guard & ready for any thing.

Three fat "Bucks" were killed that same evening and the stage was set for the famous conference on the Nebraska side of the Missouri for which Council Bluffs in Iowa is named. Clark's journal of this council of August 3, 1804, reads as follows:

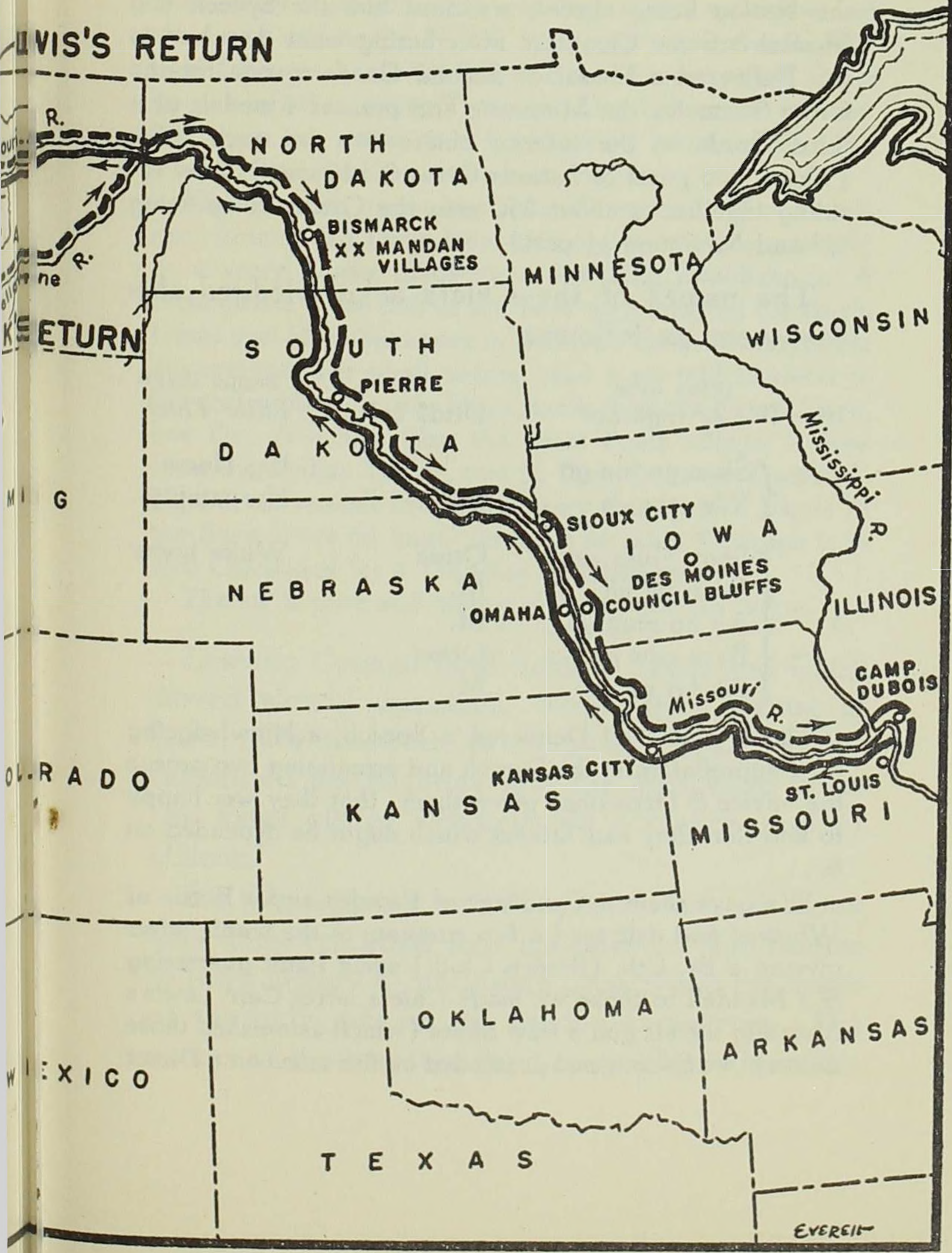
August 3rd Friday 1804

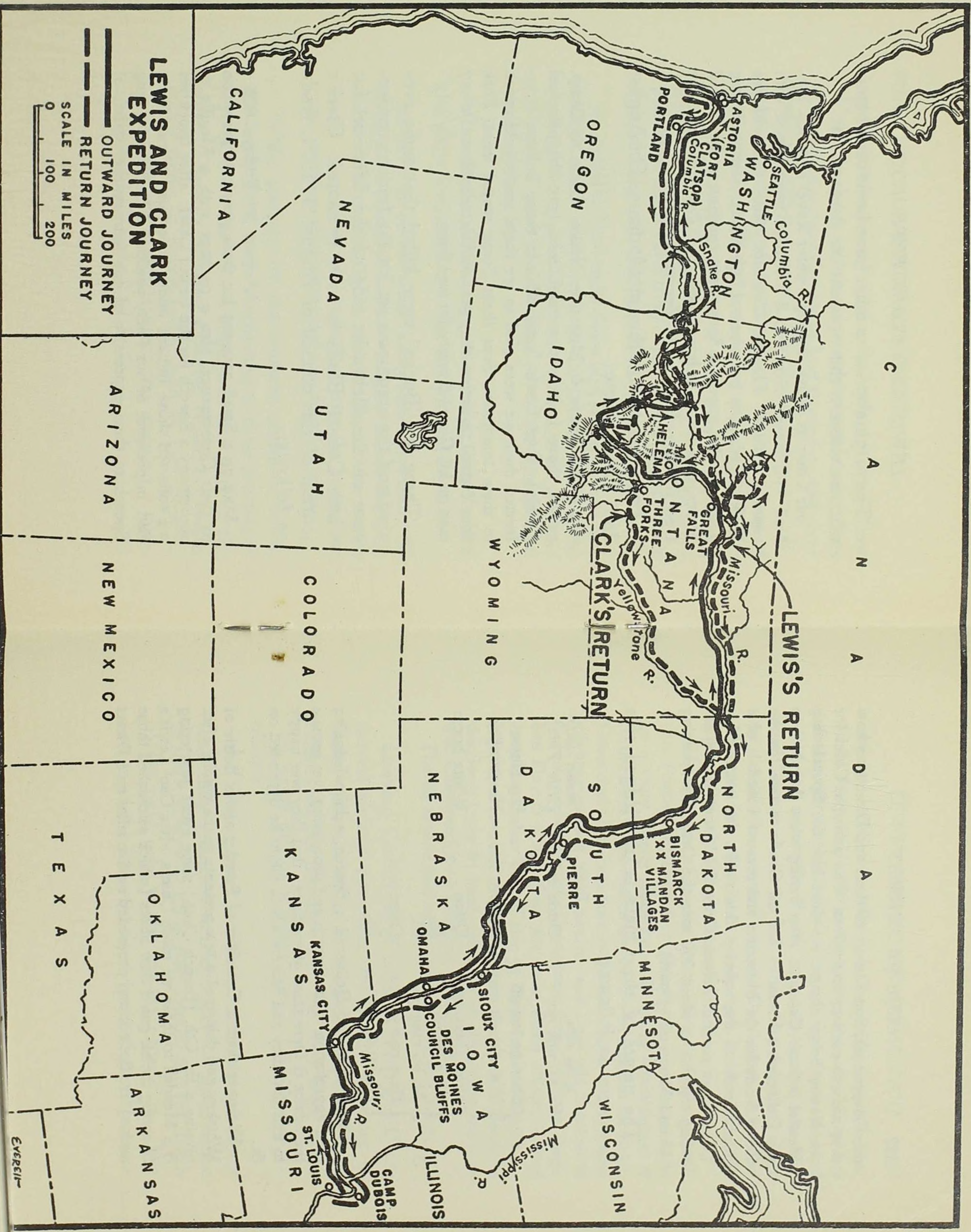
Mad up a Small present for those people in perpotion to their Consiquence, also a package with a Meadle to accompany a Speech for the Grand Chief after Brackfast we collected those Indians under an owning of our Main Sail, in presence of our Party paraded & Delivered a long Speech to them expressive of our journey the wishes of



A D A

LEWIS'S RETURN





LEWIS AND CLARK
EXPEDITION

— OUTWARD JOURNEY
- - - RETURN JOURNEY

SCALE IN MILES
0 100 200

EVERETT

our Government, Some advice to them and Directions how they were to conduct themselves. The principal Chief for the Nation being absent, we Sent him the Speech flag Meadel & Some Cloathes. after hering what they had to say Delivered a Medal of Second Grade to one for the Ottos & one for the Missourie and present 4 medals of a third Grade to the inferior chiefs two for each tribe. (Those two parts of nations Ottos & Missouries now residing together is about 250 men the Ottoes composeing $\frac{2}{3}$ ^d and Missouris $\frac{1}{3}$ part)

The names of the Chiefs acknowledged this day were as follows:

	Indian name		English signif. ^{ts}
1 st	<i>We ar ruge nor</i>	Ottoo call'd	<i>Little Thief</i>
2	{ Shon go ton go	" "	Big Horse
	{ We - the - a	Miss: "	Hospatality
3	{ Shon Guss can.	Ottoo	White horse
	{ Wau pe uh	M.	
	{ Ah ho ning ga.	M.	
	{ Baza cou ja.	Ottoo	
	{ Ah ho ne ga	M.	

Those Chiefs all Delivered a Speech, acknowledging their approbation to the Speech and promising to pursue the advice & Directions given them that they were happy to find that they had fathers which might be depended on &c.

We gave them a Cannister of Powder and a Bottle of Whiskey and delivered a few presents to the whole, after giving a Br. Cth. [Breech Cloth] some Paint quattering & a Meadell to those we made Chiefs, after Capt Lewis's Shooting the air gun a few Shots (which astonished those natives) we Set out and proceeded on five miles on a Direct

line passed a point on the S. S. & around a large Sand bar on the L. S. & Camped on the upper point, the Misquitors excessively troublesom this evening. Great appearance of wind and rain to the N. W. we prepare to rec've it, The man *Liberty* whome we Sent for the Ottoes has not Come up he left the Ottoes Town one Day before the Indians. This man has either tired his horse or, lost himself in the Plains Some Indians are to hunt for him.

The Situation of our last Camp *Council Bluff* or Handsom Prarie, (25 Days from this to *Santafée*) appears to be a verry proper place for a Tradeing establishment & fortification The Soil of the Bluff well adapted for Brick, Great deel of timber above in the two Points — many other advantages of a small nature. and I am told Sentral to Several nations viz. one Days march from the Ottoe Town, one Day & a half from the great Pania village, 2 days from the Mahar Towns, two $\frac{1}{4}$ Days from the *Loups* village, & convenient to the Countrey thro: which Bands of the Soux [*rove* &] hunt. perhaps no other Situation is as well Calculated for a Tradeing establishment.

The air is pure and helthy so far as we can judge.

Leaving Council Bluff behind, Lewis and Clark moved slowly upstream, frequently stopping in Iowa. On the 18th of August, Captain Lewis celebrated his birthday and the men were given "an extra gill of whiskey and a Dance until 11 oClock."

As they approached the present site of Sioux City they recorded two episodes of significance to Iowa history — an Indian council and the death of the only man to die on the expedition. The events of the last two days spent along the west-

ern border of Iowa are worth recording in full at this point:

19th August Sunday 1804 —

a fine morning wind from the S. E. prepared a Small Present for the Chiefs and Warriors present. the main chief Brackfast with us & begged for a Sun glass, those People are all naked, Covered only with Breech Clouts Blankets or Buffalow Roabes, the flesh Side Painted of Different colours and figures. At 10 oClock we assembled the Chiefs and warriors 9 in number under an owning, and Cap. Lewis [we] explained the Speech Sent to the Nation from the Council Bluffs by Mr. Faucon. The 3 Chiefs and all the men or warriors made short Speeches approving the advice & Council their great father had Sent them, and concluded by giving themselves some Credit for their acts.

We then brought out the presents and exchanged the *Big horses* Meadel and gave him one equal to the one Sent to the Little Thief & gave all Some Small articles & 8 Carrots of Tobacco, we gave one Small Meadel to one of the Chiefs and a Sertificate to the others of their good intentions.

Names.

The Little Thief	Gr ^d Chiefs I have
The Big Horse	mentioned before.
<i>Crows Head</i> (or)	<i>Kar Ka paha</i> — Missory
<i>Black Cat</i> (or)	<i>Ne na Sa wa</i> — do
<i>Iron Eyes</i> (or)	<i>Sar na no no</i> — Ottoe
<i>Big Ax</i> (or)	<i>Nee Swar Unja</i> — do
<i>Big Blue Eyes</i> —	<i>Star gea Hun ja</i> — do
<i>Brave Man</i> (or)	<i>War sar Sha Co</i>

one of those Indians after receiving his Certificate deliv^d it again to me the *Big blue eyes* the Chief petitioned for

the Ctft. again, we would not give the Certf^t, but rebuked them verry roughly for haveing in object goods and not peace with their neighbours. this language they did not like at first, but at length all petitioned for us to give back the Certificate to the Big blue eyes he came forward and made a plausible excuse, I then gave the Certificate [to] the Great Chief to bestow it to the most Worthy, they gave it to him, we then gave them a Dram and broke up the Council, the Chiefs requested we would not leave them this evening we determined to Set out early in the morning we Showed them many Curiosities and the air gun which they were much astonished at. those people beged much for Whiskey. Serjeant Floyd is taken verry bad all at once with a Biliose Chorlick we attempt to relieve him without success as yet, he gets worst and we are much allarmed at his Situation, all [give] attention to him.

20th August Monday 1804 —

Sergeant Floyd much weaker and no better. Made Mr Faufonn the interpter a few presents, and the Indians a Canister of Whiskey We Set out under a gentle breeze from the S. E. and proceeded on verry well. Serjeant Floyd as bad as he can be no pulse & nothing will Stay a moment on his Stomach or bowels. Passed two Islands on the S. S. and at the first Bluff on the S. S. Serj. Floyd Died with a great deal of Composure, before his death he Said to me, "I am going away I want you to write me a letter." We buried him on the top of the bluff $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile below a Small river to which we Gave his name, he was buried with the Honors of War much lamented, a Seeder post with the (1) Name Serg^t C. Floyd died here 20th of august 1804 was fixed at the head of his grave. This Man at all times gave us proofs of his firmness and Determined resolution to doe Service to his Countrey and honor to

himself after paying all the honor to our Decesed brother we camped in the Mouth of floyds River about 30 yards wide, a butifull evening.

The grave of Sergeant Floyd was at a point now in the southern part of present-day Sioux City. Later the Missouri River washed away part of the grave and in May, 1857, his remains were removed to a spot two hundred yards inland and, on August 20, 1895, the original spot was marked with a slab. A monumental shaft to his memory was erected on May 30, 1901. Floyd is believed to be the first white man buried in Iowa soil; certainly he was the first soldier of the United States to be interred in the State.

The following outline gives some idea of the progress Lewis and Clark made up the Big Muddy, since it records the dates they passed by the mouths of streams, most of which drain present-day Iowa before emptying into the Missouri. The streams recorded range from the Osage to the Heart:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mouth of</i>
June 1, 1804	Osage
June 10, 1804	Chariton
June 13, 1804	Grand
June 26, 1804	Kansas (Kansas City)
June 30, 1804	Little Platte
July 8, 1804	Nodaway

July 14, 1804	Nishnabotna
July 21, 1804	Platte
July 29, 1804	Boyer
August 6, 1804	Soldier
August 12, 1804	Little Sioux
August 20, 1804	Floyd
August 21, 1804	Big Sioux (Sioux City)
August 27, 1804	James
Sept. 4, 1804	Niobrara
Sept. 15, 1804	White
Sept. 24, 1804	Bad (Pierre, S. D.)
October 1, 1804	Cheyenne
October 21, 1804	Heart (Bismarck)

The Lewis and Clark expedition continued on its way beyond Iowa through a veritable paradise of wild game. They reached the Mandan Indian villages, some thirty miles above present-day Bismarck, N. D., on October 26th, having traveled 1,600 miles in 160 days, or an average of ten miles per day. The swift current of the Missouri, the delays occasioned by Indian conferences, and the need to forage for wild game were important factors in setting such a slow pace.

The Lewis and Clark party wintered during 1804-1805 with the Mandan Indians. Here they found the captive Indian "Bird Woman," Sacajawea, who was destined to play such a stellar role in guiding them through the Rockies the

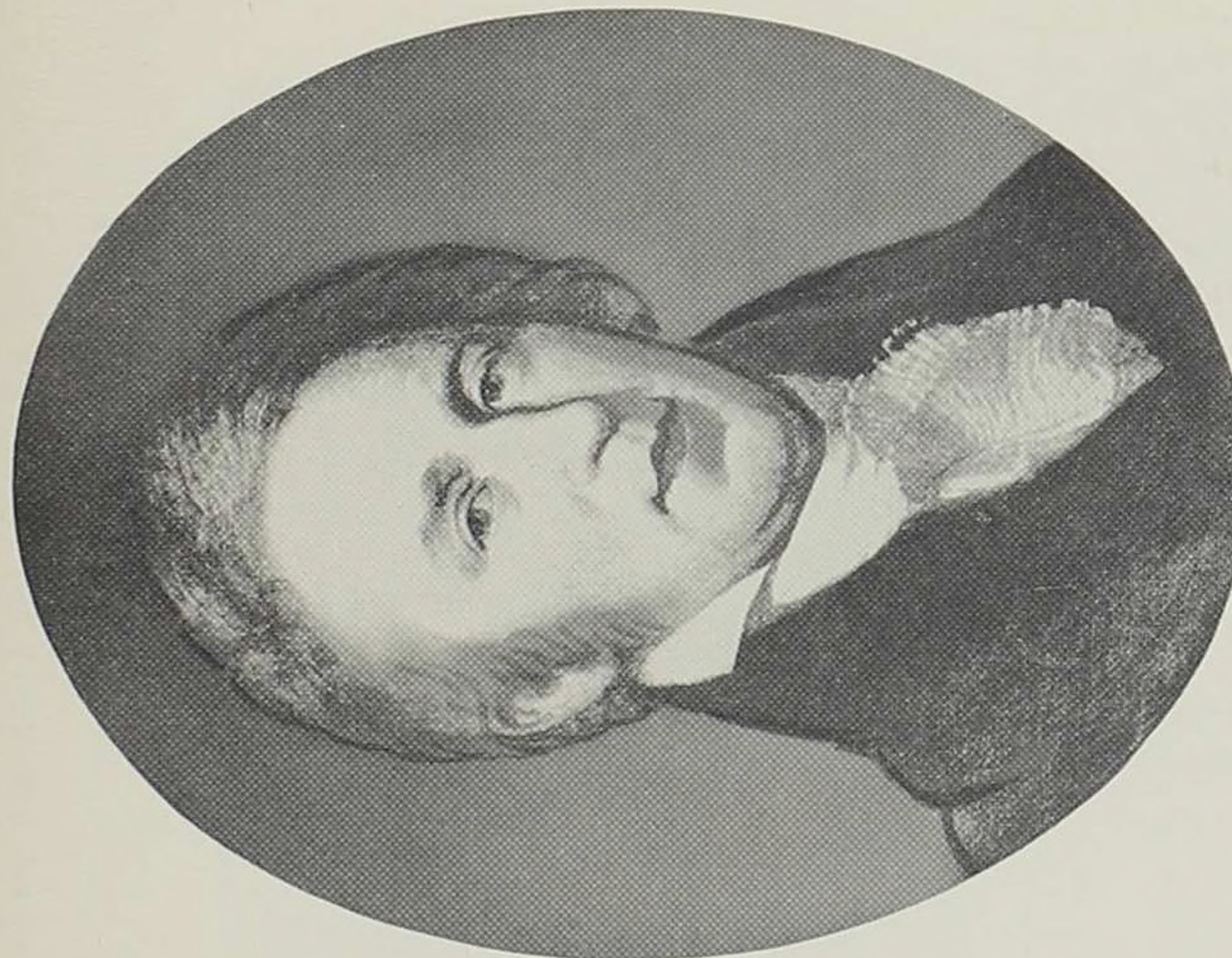
following summer. Their experiences in the Mandan village form one of the most colorful chapters in the Lewis and Clark expedition. During 1805, they ascended the Missouri to its source, toiled across the Rockies, and went down the Columbia River to the Pacific, where they erected Fort Clatsop and spent the second winter on Baker's Bay. On their return journey they paid a visit to the grave of Sergeant Floyd on September 4, 1806, and on September 23, 1806, they were welcomed joyously by the citizens of St. Louis. Floyd was the only man lost on the entire trip!

Lewis was appointed Governor of the Territory of Louisiana in 1807, but he died only two years later, on October 11, 1809. The details of his death are obscure; it is not known whether murder or suicide was the cause. Captain Clark long survived his friend. In 1807 he was commissioned a brigadier general of the militia and appointed Indian Agent at St. Louis, a post he held until 1813, when he became Governor of Missouri Territory. In 1822 he became Superintendent of Indian Affairs and, while holding this office, he died on September 1, 1838. A full account of the life of the famous "Red Head" was carried in the *Dubuque Iowa News* in 1838.

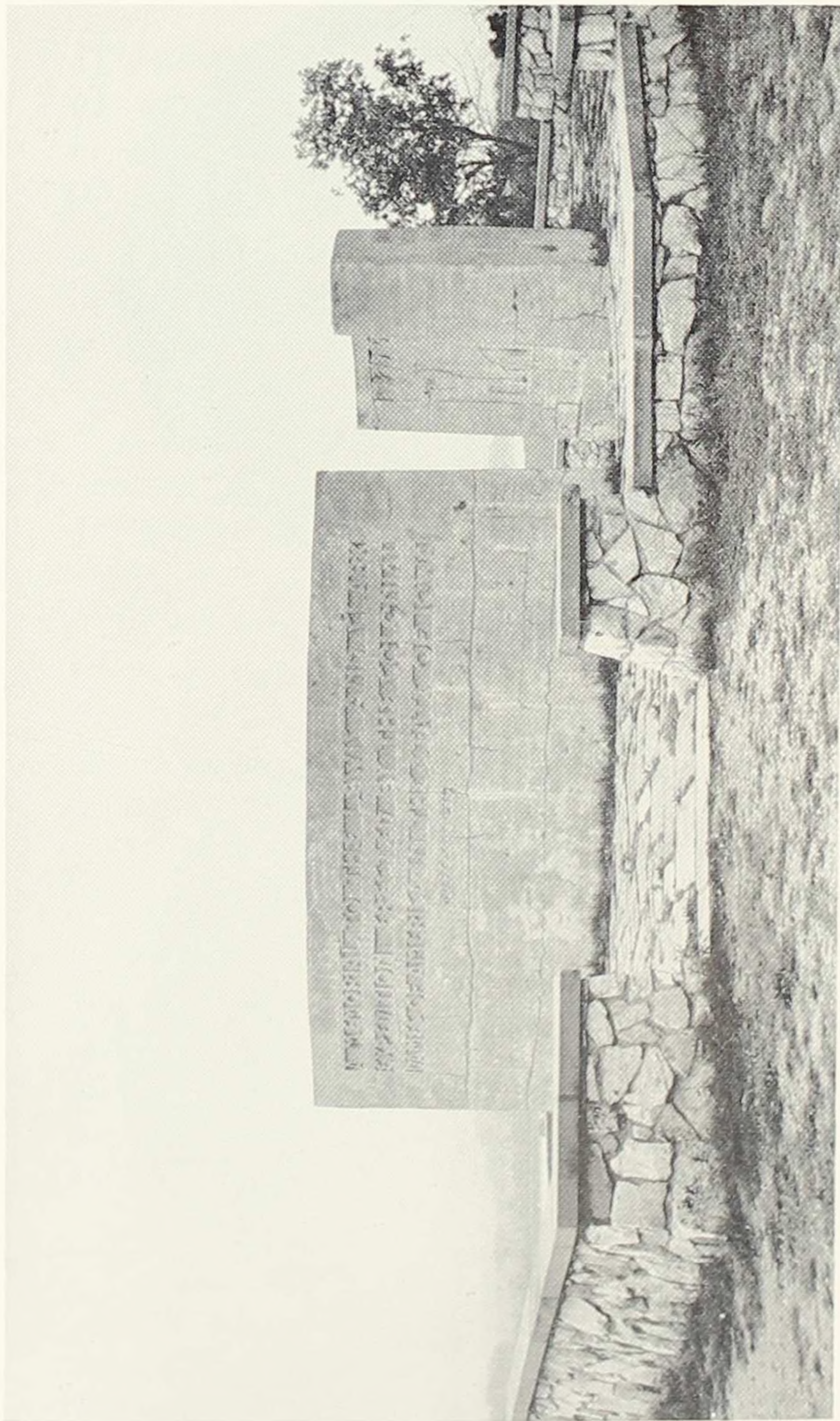
During the 33 days Lewis and Clark moved upstream along the western boundary of Iowa the expedition made the first detailed report of the Indians, wild game, and fish encountered, the soil,



MERIWETHER LEWIS



From Thwaites' *Original Journals of Lewis and Clark*
WILLIAM CLARK



Courtesy Council Bluffs *Nonpareil*

Monument to Lewis and Clark Expedition at Rainbow Point just Outside Council Bluffs.
One panel reads: "A Memorial to The Lewis And Clark Expedition Erected By The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Iowa—November, 1935."

The other panel reads: "Beneath the Bluffs on the Missouri Lewis and Clark Held Parley with the Otoe and Missouri Indians and Named the locality Council Bluffs—August 5, 1804."

flora, and fauna, the flow of the Missouri, the temperature, wind velocity, and weather. They gave to Jefferson and all Americans a picture of what had been an unknown and unreported region. Many of the names the party gave to geographical features remained and are still in use.

Today the Lewis and Clark expedition is commemorated by splendid monuments at Council Bluffs and Sioux City. The inscription to the Lewis and Clark expedition on the Floyd Monument at Sioux City reads as follows:

IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE
LOUISIANA PURCHASE
MADE DURING THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON
THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
APRIL 30 1803

OF ITS SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATION
BY THE HEROIC MEMBERS OF THE
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
OF THE
VALOR OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER
AND OF THE ENTERPRISE
COURAGE AND FORTITUDE OF THE
AMERICAN PIONEER
TO WHOM THESE GREAT STATES
WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
OWE THEIR SECURE FOUNDATION

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN